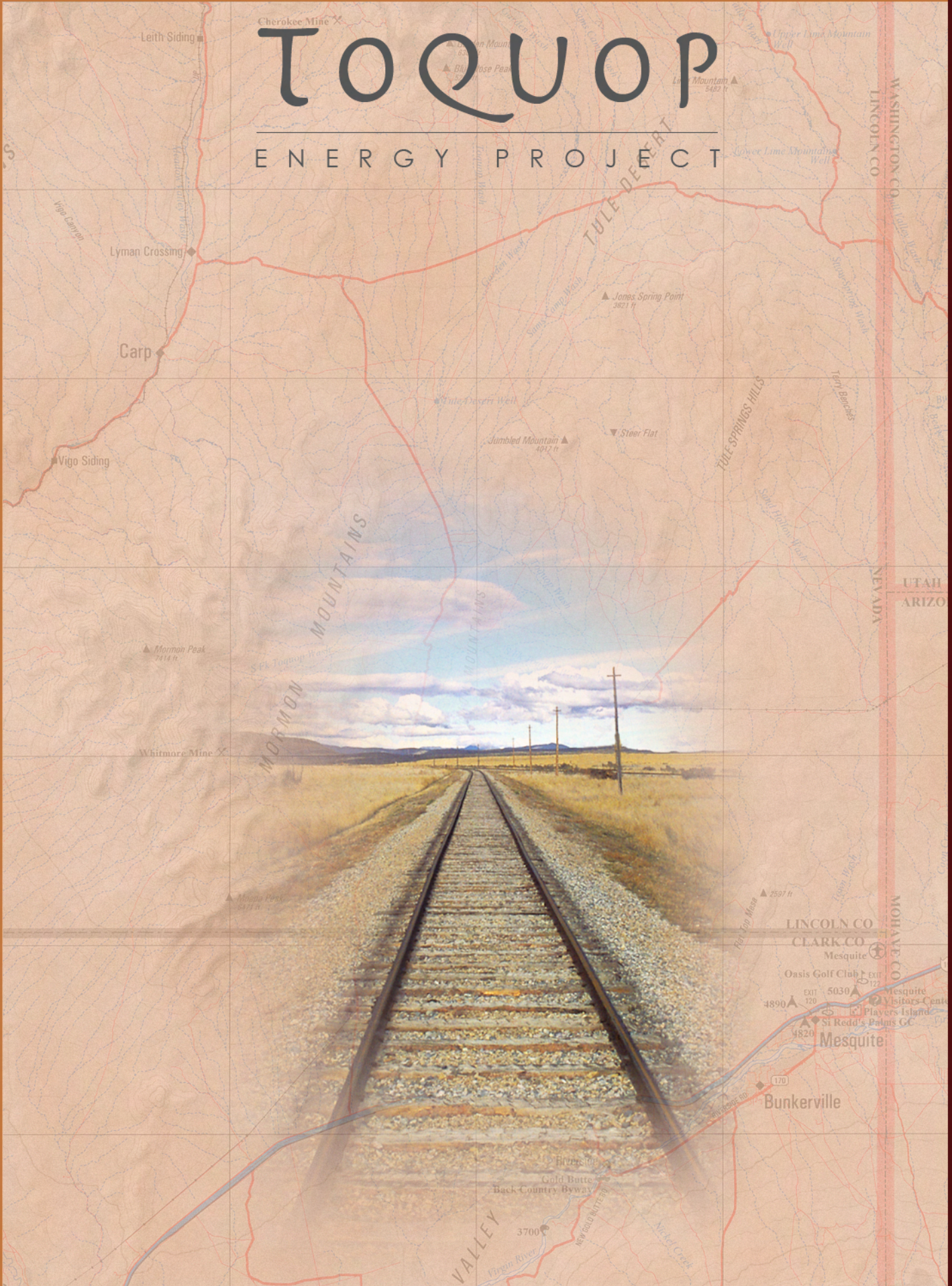


TOQUOP

ENERGY PROJECT

APPENDIX E - BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR RECLAMATION



APPENDIX E

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR RECLAMATION

The Proposed Toquop Land Disposal Amendment to the Caliente Management Framework Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Toquop Energy Project (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2003a) identified a series of standard operating procedures (referred to here as best management practices) that would guide reclamation efforts following construction of the Toquop Energy Project. These practices would be followed for any of the alternatives under consideration in this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

- Reclamation would normally be accomplished with native species only. These would be representative of the indigenous species present in the adjacent habitat. Rationale for potential planting with selected non-natives would be documented. Possible exceptions could include use of non-natives for a temporary cover crop to out-compete weeds.
- Seeding would occur during November 15 through March 15 to ensure a greater chance of success.
- Reclamation release criteria are as follows:
 - One-hundred percent of the perennial plant cover of selected comparison areas, normally like adjacent habitat. If the adjacent habitat is severely disturbed, a range site description may be used as a cover standard. Cover is normally crown cover as estimated by the point intercept method. Selected cover can be determined using a method as described in *Sampling Vegetation Attributes, Interagency Technical Reference* (BLM 1996). The reclamation plan for the project area would identify the site-specific release criteria and associated statistical methods in the reclamation plan or permit.
 - No noxious weeds would be allowed on the sites for reclamation release. Control of noxious weeds would follow an integrated pest management plan approved by the authorizing officer. A list of Nevada noxious weeds would be provided by the authorized officer.
- All available growth medium would be salvaged and stockpiled prior to disturbance. All disturbed areas would be recontoured to blend as nearly as possible with the natural topography prior to revegetation. All compacted portions of the disturbance would be ripped to a depth of 12 inches unless solid rock is encountered. Adequate fine-grain seedbed must be established to provide good seed to soil contact. Large blocks and clumps of soil with deep pockets should be avoided. This normally requires some type of tillage procedure after ripping.
- All portions of access roads not needed for other uses as determined by the BLM authorized officer would be reclaimed.
- Mulching (certified weed-free as required by Bureau of Land Management) of the seedbed following seeding may be required under certain conditions, such as severe erosion.
- The success of the vegetative growth on a reclaimed site may be evaluated for release no sooner than during the third growing season after earthwork and planting have been completed. Where it has been determined that revegetation success criteria have not been met, the agencies and the

operator would meet to decide on the best course of actions necessary to meet the reclamation goal.

- Where applicable, the following agencies would be consulted to determine the recommended plant species composition, seeding rates, and planting dates:
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees appropriate for site conditions and surrounding vegetation would be included on the plant list. Species chosen for a site would be matched for site drainage, climate, shading, resistance to erosion, soil type, slope, aspect, and vegetation management goals. Upland revegetation would match the plant list to the site's soil type, topographic position, elevation, and surrounding natural communities.
- Construction areas, including storage yards, would be free of waste material and trash accumulations at all times.
- All unused materials and trash would be removed from construction and storage sites during the final phase of work. All removed material would be placed in approved sanitary landfills or storage sites and work areas would be left to conform to the natural landscape.
- Upon completion of construction, any land disturbed would be graded to provide proper drainage and blend with the natural contour of the land. Following grading, it would be revegetated using plants native to the area, suitable for the site conditions, and beneficial to wildlife.
- Following completion of construction, all yards, offices, and construction buildings, including concrete footings and slabs, would be removed from the site.